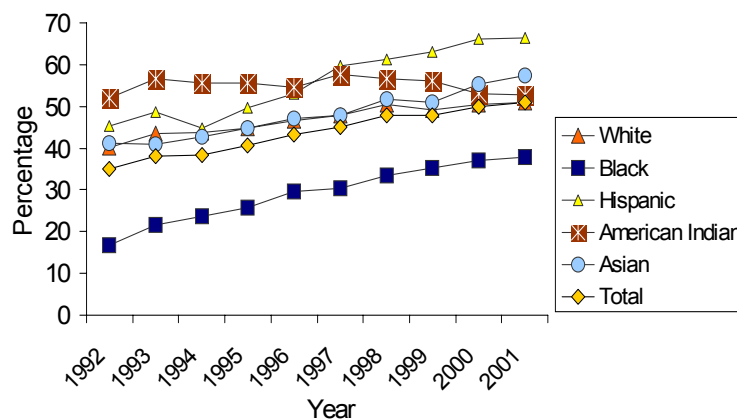


## Breastfeeding in Low-Income Infants in the US\*

Breastfeeding is an important contributor to infant health as it provides benefits for the infant's growth, immunity, and development. Breastfeeding improves maternal health and contributes economic benefits to the family, the health care system, and the workplace.

- Despite the many benefits of breastfeeding, the percent of low-income infant who are breastfed falls short of national recommendations.
- Interventions targeted to specific low-income populations are needed to increase the national breastfeeding rates.

**Trends in the percent of low-income infants ever breastfed by race and ethnicity<sup>1</sup>**



Black infants are least likely to be breastfed compared to other groups.



<sup>1</sup> 2001 National PedNSS Data

- In 2001, 51% of PedNSS infants were ever breastfed compared to 38% of black infants; the *Healthy People 2010* objectives call for 75% of infants to be breastfed.
- In 2001, 21% of PedNSS children were breastfed for at least 6 months compared to 14% of black infants; the *Healthy People 2010* objectives call for 50% of children to be breastfed at least 6 months.
- National data from other sources indicate that 69.5% of infants are ever breastfed and 32.5% are breastfed at 6 months.

<sup>1</sup> Based on data from the Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS) comprised of a low-income population; the majority of data represent infants/children participating in the WIC Program.